

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of providing text-to-speech services, the method comprising the steps of:
2 splitting a text into segments that include anticipated-content segments and
3 unanticipated-content segments;
4 generating speech for said anticipated-content segments based on pre-recorded sound
5 recordings that correspond to said anticipated-content segments; and
6 generating speech for said unanticipated-content segments using speech synthesis.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1 comprising the steps of storing usage statistics
2 that identify which segments are contained in texts that are translated
3 using said text-to-speech services.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of at
2 least a set of said segments.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of unanticipated-content segments; and
3 the method includes the step of selecting, based on said usage statistics, a set of
4 unanticipated-content segments for which to make recordings.
- 1 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of selecting a set of unanticipated-content
2 segments includes selecting a set of unanticipated-content segments that were most
3 frequently used during a time period.
- 1 6. The method of Claim 3 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of anticipated-content segments; and
3 the method includes the steps of

4 selecting a set of anticipated-content segments based on said usage statistics;
5 and
6 removing recordings associated with the selected anticipated-content
7 segments.

1 7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of selecting a set of anticipated-content
2 segments includes selecting a set of anticipated-content segments that were least
3 frequently used during a period of time.

1 8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 recording a plurality of recordings for a particular anticipated-segment;
3 storing data that indicates rules for selecting between said plurality of recordings; and
4 when said text contains said particular anticipated-content segment, applying the rules
5 indicated in said data to select one of said plurality of recordings; and
6 generating speech for said particular anticipated-segment using said selected
7 recording.

1 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein:
2 the text is from a particular source; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on identity of said particular source.

1 10. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 the text is from one of a plurality of text sources managed by a plurality of parties;
3 and
4 the text-to-speech services are provided by a host, separate from said plurality of
5 parties, that is connected to said text sources over a network system.

1 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the text sources are web pages that contain text, and
2 said network system is the World Wide Web.

1 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein:
2 the anticipated-content segment appears in a particular context within said text; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on said particular context.

1 13. A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for providing text-to-speech
2 services, the instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:
3 splitting a text into segments that include anticipated-content segments and
4 unanticipated-content segments;
5 generating speech for said anticipated-content segments based on pre-recorded sound
6 recordings that correspond to said anticipated-content segments; and
7 generating speech for said unanticipated-content segments using speech synthesis.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 comprising the steps of
2 storing usage statistics that identify which segments are contained in
3 texts that are translated using said text-to-speech services.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 14 wherein the usage statistics indicate
2 frequency of use of at least a set of said segments.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of unanticipated-content segments; and
3 the computer-readable medium includes the step of selecting, based on said usage
4 statistics, a set of unanticipated-content segments for which to make
5 recordings.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the step of selecting a set of
2 unanticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of unanticipated-content
3 segments that were most frequently used during a time period.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein:
2 the usage statistics indicate frequency of use of anticipated-content segments; and
3 the computer-readable medium includes the steps of
4 selecting a set of anticipated-content segments based on said usage statistics;
5 and
6 removing recordings associated with the selected anticipated-content
7 segments.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18 wherein the step of selecting a set of
2 anticipated-content segments includes selecting a set of anticipated-content segments
3 that were least frequently used during a period of time.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
2 recording a plurality of recordings for a particular anticipated-segment;
3 storing data that indicates rules for selecting between said plurality of recordings; and
4 when said text contains said particular anticipated-content segment, applying the rules
5 indicated in said data to select one of said plurality of recordings; and
6 generating speech for said particular anticipated-segment using said selected
7 recording.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein:
2 the text is from a particular source; and
3 the step of applying the rules includes determining which of said plurality of
4 recordings to select based at least in part on identity of said particular source.

